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Funding social change since 1967

RESIST

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A Call to Resist Illegitimate Authority

January 2003

Activists Support Immigrant Rights

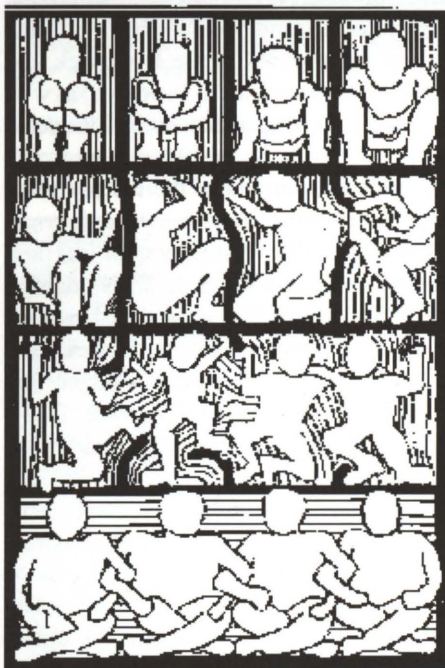
CHRI Brings Together Immigrants Across Diverse Communities

JAMES WONG

The FBI does not have the right to enter your home without a warrant, says Mac Scott to a room full of attentive ears and ferocious note-takers. For the second time in a week, Scott is leading a "Know Your Rights" training session to educate people who work with immigrants about what rights they are entitled to under the rapidly changing law as it pertains to the FBI, police, and INS. Scott is a member of the Coalition for the Human Rights of Immigrants (CHRI), an all volunteer, grassroots organization in New York City.

Founded in 1997 (and a RESIST grantee since 1998), CHRI is dedicated to organizing for the rights of immigrants under the premise that all people, regardless of their immigration status, are entitled to basic human, civil and labor rights. Ideologically, CHRI does not believe criminal remedies should be used for civil situations and therefore supports the abolition of any detention or incarceration of immigrants. Started to address workplace raids by the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) through grassroots education and action, CHRI has adapted so that it now addresses the most pressing issues facing immigrant communities: workers' rights, detentions, amnesty, and providing "Know Your Rights" (KYR) trainings.

CHRI does not provide any direct services to immigrants. Instead, we are most



Graphic courtesy of the Coalition for the Human Rights of Immigrants

effective at organizing protests and demonstrations, and supporting other organizations in their work. However, we do occasionally take on specific campaigns in collaboration with other groups.

For example, the CHRI detention working group launched the Stop the Disappearances Campaign in partnership with two other RESIST grantees, Desis Rising Up and Moving (DRUM) and the Prison Moratorium Project (PMP). Since 9/11, thousands of South Asian, Arab, and Muslim

immigrants have been picked up by the INS and detained for months on end, mostly for minor visa violations. The campaign calls for the release of all detainees. At the height of their work, the detention working group made six to 10 visits per week to detainees being held in prisons in New Jersey in an effort to assist them with their cases.

CHRI has since phased out the visitations. We continue to work with groups like DRUM that are already working in affected communities and encouraging family members to make visitations and support the detainees. CHRI is now working on legal support and agitation around these issues. In addition, CHRI has helped to organize numerous rallies outside detention centers, community forums, and events in non-affected communities to raise public awareness.

Immigrant Activism Pre- and Post-9/11

Prior to the events of 9/11, CHRI was one of two groups in the entire city that was making visitations to detainees as part of a group called the Coalition on Detentions and Incarceration (CODI). Then 9/11 shifted the entire political map to the right, making our work all the more topical and urgent as we seek to combat the increasingly xenophobic and racist immigration laws.

In a city with 40-percent of the population foreign born, our work is never-ending. But by working with organizations that already exist and work with specific com-

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munities and issues, we are not only able to address issues across different racial and ethnic lines. We also seek to force greater collaboration among the many different immigrant rights groups and labor and community-based organizations, such as the detention work with DRUM.

Additionally, CHRI translated the KYR cards into Arabic and gave them to the Arab-American Family Support Center for them to distribute to their constituents. The KYR committee has partnered with community-based organizations to hold trainings and educate the public. They created KYR palm cards with useful information such as, "You do not have to answer any questions about your immigration," as well as important phone numbers to call in case one needs legal assistance. By translating the cards into Arabic, they were able to directly reach one of the communities most targeted since 9/11.

The USA PATRIOT Act and new Department of Justice regulations contribute to the "immigrant-as-enemy" environment that 9/11 helped to create. Supreme Court decisions such as *Hoffman Plastics v. NLRB*, that limit undocumented workers'

rights to back pay, and the Social Security Administration's mailing out more and more no-match letters (letting employers know that they have submitted reports with names and social security numbers that do not match SSA records) have created a climate of fear among many undocumented immigrant workers. The fear makes it more difficult for them to assert their labor rights, almost all of which are the same regardless of immigration status. While not explicitly denying workers the right to organize and to work collectively, the recent changes have had exactly that chilling effect.

Supporting Immigrant Workers' Rights

Past actions around workers' rights issues include a demonstration outside the home of the owner of a sweatshop, informing the entire community of his illegal practices and union busting ways. This action was organized jointly with the Latin American Workers Project (an organization that organizes around workplace issues for Latino immigrants in the Bushwick and Williamsburg sections of Brooklyn) as well as several other organizations. The Proyecto (as it is called in Spanish) has been working with the workers of the factory since

they started to organize themselves almost two years ago.

This past May Day saw CHRI's most diverse turnout yet with more than 500 people from dozens of organizations—including for the first time significant numbers of East Asian immigrants—marching down Broadway in a show of solidarity and support for immigrant workers, culminating in a rally for amnesty for all immigrants.

It is impossible to talk about social justice without talking about immigrants. Anytime you're able to empower disenfranchised and marginalized sections of society, you are helping to correct the imbalance in our society. As long as we continue to contribute to the building of grassroots social movements that exert more power within the political, social, cultural and economic spheres, we will consider our work indispensable.

James Wong is a member of the Coalition for the Human Rights of Immigrants, which received a multi-year grant from RESIST this year. For more information, contact CHRI, 339 Lafayette St, New York, NY 10012; www.itapnet.org/chri.

General Immigration Fact Sheet

- There are over 150 million migrants in the world today. The United States receives less than 2% of the world's migrants on an annual basis.
- The number of documented immigrants admitted in 1998 totaled 660,477, the lowest level since 1988. This decrease was largely due to a backlog of applications within the INS for adjustment of status, which would enable people in the US borders to apply for permanent residency status.
- In 1998, 38.3% of immigrants arriving in the United States came from North America, including Canada, Mexico, Central America, and the Caribbean, followed by Asia with 33.3% and Europe with 13.7%.
- In 1998, 131,575 documented migrants came from Mexico, comprising 19.9% of the total. Other leading source countries included China, India, the Philippines, and the Dominican Republic.
- In 1999, 26.4 million people, or 9.7% of the total US population was foreign born, compared to 15% in 1915.
- Immigrants tend to settle in selected

states and urban areas. In 1999, almost one out of two immigrants lived in central cities within a metropolitan area. The top 6 states of intended residence for immigrants admitted in 1998 were California, New York, Florida, Texas, New Jersey, and Illinois.

- During the last several years, the median age of documented immigrants has remained constant at 29 years of age.
- 54% of the documented immigrants admitted in 1998 were female, sustaining a pattern developed in the previous four years.
- Some leading occupations among documented immigrants reporting a professional or technical occupation included: nurses, engineers, social or religious workers, mathematical or computer scientists, natural scientists, and post-secondary teachers. Many immigrants also work in agricultural labor, the garment industry, food processing, construction, and the hotel and restaurant industries.

The facts are taken from the National Network for Immigrant and Refugee Rights, www.nnirr.org.



ILLEGITIMATE AUTHORITY
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For information and grant guidelines, write to: Resist, 259 Elm St., Suite 201
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L. A. Community Rallies for Workers

Multi-Ethnic Immigrant Workers Organizing Network Marches On

MAYRON PAYES AND
ANGELICA SALAS

More than 15,000 people marched in the streets of Los Angeles on May 1, 2002 (International Workers' Day) chanting "Legalization now!" and "Stop Immigrant Bashing!" Their demands were basic: stop immigrant bashing and support legalization as the remedy for undocumented immigrants and their families. At the front of the march was a banner from the Multi-Ethnic Immigrant Workers Organizing Network (MIWON), a coalition of activist groups that works across various communities for economic and political justice.

This forceful coalition had been forming for many years. Low-wage work in Los Angeles was not an isolated reality for any one community. Exploitation, verbal and physical abuse, harassment, blacklisting, and threats were common across various ethnic backgrounds. The lack of response from organized labor to these conditions impacted and perpetuated these abuses.

In 1997, the Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights of Los Angeles (CHIRLA), the Korean Immigrant Worker Advocates (KIWA), and Pilipino Workers Center (PWC) started working and supporting each other on different organizing efforts involving local fights of low-wage immigrant workers in Los Angeles. Classic examples of these organizing efforts included back-wage campaigns to pressure owners to pay what they owed. These three organizations had a clear view of what it takes to regain dignity and respect in the workplace but were also aware of limitations, including insufficient resources for organizing, lack of understanding from the general public of these workers' realities, and ethnic and language barriers. By working together, the groups could overcome some of these limitations and mount more effective organizing campaigns.

Koreatown Restaurant Justice Campaign

In 2000, after a few years of working together, the coalition became heavily involved with KIWA's "Koreatown Restaurant Justice Campaign." The campaign had reached an impasse. One of the most abu-



Members of the Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights of Los Angeles (CHIRLA) make their demands known. Photo courtesy of CHIRLA

sive employers in Koreatown owned "The Elephant Snack Corner," where 12 workers were engaged in a fight for back wages for several months. The workers needed to see and feel support from our communities. So KIWA, CHIRLA, PWC contacted other organizations and asked them to engage in support of these workers on May 1st (Workers' Day/Labor Day in many other countries).

Approximately 300 workers blockaded the street in front of the restaurant and rocked Koreatown! That moment was one of realization. It was a clear message that our communities could be united in solidarity with the workers of this restaurant and also united to support future fights for workers' rights. Pilipino workers, Korean workers, Latino day laborers and gardeners, and many others were the emerging faces that would win the future fights, just as we won back pay for the workers at the Elephant Snack Corner.

The Koreatown event invigorated us and spurred us to develop strategies to maintain and increase this powerful force. During 2000 and 2001, meetings and workshops among these same workers were held with the objective of clarifying purposes, themes and points of unity. During these meetings it was clear that we shared many concerns beyond workplace injustices, including legalization for undocumented

workers and the need to have California identification cards and drivers' licenses.

During 2001, the Garment Workers Center was created and joined our budding coalition. These workers decided to move from "campaign supporters" to partners in building a network that could bring their desires to life. Together we created a network known as MIWON, the Multi-ethnic Immigrant Workers Organizing Network.

What MIWON stands for

After years of discussions, workshops and common actions, MIWON formed as a vehicle to help multi-ethnic immigrant workers and organizations fight for legalization of the undocumented. We believed that workers and their families should come out of the shadows and be the driving force behind this movement.

During the year 2001, MIWON engaged in a very intense fight, in the process coming up with a broader approach. Legalization was a "hot issue" among big political figures like President Bush and Mexican President Fox, both new presidents who shared conservative views. President Bush stated that Mexico was his strategic partner. While Bush and Fox spoke only of Mexicans, in the streets we were saying that legalization should not be limited to

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L. A. Community Rallies for Workers

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the people of Mexico, but should include other immigrant communities: Salvadorans, Pilipinos, Chinese, Thai, Koreans and any others. On May 1, 2001, exactly one year after the fight at Elephant Snack Corner restaurant, more than 4,000 area workers marched to celebrate Workers' Day, calling for legalization. The call was made in Spanish, Korean, Chinese, Tagalog and English by the thousands of marchers.

Following the march, all these workers refined their platform. In August 2001 during a town hall meeting, they presented to the community their workers' platform, which contained their deep desires and hopes for a better society and tomorrow for themselves, their families and their communities. This event brought us closer together in this fight.

The September 11 attacks

Unfortunately, the terrorist attacks that took place on September 11 changed the lives of many, including those in immigrant communities in Los Angeles. Our communities were transformed into targets of persecution, backlash, and even hate. At that moment, our hearts ached not only to see the suffering of the American people, but also because many in our immigrant communities know intimately the spiral that war and violence bring. The whole debate around legalization and other immigration reform was temporarily put aside while we engaged—as many did—in trying to figure out what to do next.

Rather than give up, MIWON approached the Los Angeles City Council and asked them to support us, to make at least a symbolic gesture that not everything was lost. On December 18th, 2001 (United Nations International Day of Migrants and their Families), the City of Los Angeles passed a resolution adopting the MIWON workers' platform. While it was largely a symbolic gesture, on that day—even if for only a few hours—on the steps of the City Council building, immigrants stopped being the enemy and regained their dignity.

Marching On for Worker Justice

In 2002, MIWON and its four anchor organizations struggled to face a difficult dichotomy: remaining proactive and faithful to our platform, while working to defend our communities and our rights as immigrants.



Filipino (top photo) and Latin American workers march for equal employment rights and legalization. MIWON brings activists from many backgrounds together. Photos courtesy of MIWON

We continue to struggle for the legalization of undocumented workers, even as federal elected officials tell us that we don't have a chance. We have been told "no" before and prevailed. We knew that we needed to keep fighting. So on a "miracle" Wednesday, May 1, 2002 at 6:00 pm, the Los Angeles city witnessed over 15,000 people marching under the MIWON banner of Legalization Now! Stop Immigrant Bashing! In a spectacular demonstration of this powerful network, immigrants of the

national security, and efforts to end globalization.

Mayron Payes and Angelica Salas are staff members at the Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights of Los Angeles (CHIRLA), a member group of the Multi-Ethnic Immigrant Workers Organizing Network. Both groups have received grants from RESIST. For more information, contact: MIWON, 1521 Wilshire Blvd, Los Angeles, CA 90017.

What's Changed [Legally] For Immigrants?

Since September 11, 2001, a number of laws and regulations, including the USA PATRIOT Act, have been passed that have substantially restricted the safeguards available to non-citizens in immigration proceedings. These changes include:

- an increase in the length of time individuals can be detained without charge;
- expansion of the grounds upon which non-citizens, including lawful permanent residents, can be deported from or denied admission to the United States;
- restrictions on confidential communication with attorneys for detained non-citizens;
- limitations on public access to removal hearings.

Most recently the INS has implemented special registration requirements of male citizens of certain countries, including that they be photographed, fingerprinted, and answer questions under oath.

These changes and others have raised fear among immigrants, as well as sparking serious concerns by immigration, criminal, and civil rights advocates regarding the erosion of constitutional protections for immigrants within the United States.

Lawyers Guild Creates 9-11 Project

NLG Responds to Threats to Immigrants' Rights

JUDY SOMBERG

The Massachusetts Chapter of the National Lawyers Guild did not choose to start our 9-11 Project—it chose us. The Guild is a group of lawyers, legal workers, students, and “jailhouse lawyers” who actively pursue a broad-based progressive social activist agenda. Immediately after September 11, the Guild started receiving calls from immigrants and immigrant organizations seeking help about what to do if the INS, the FBI, or some other agents came knocking on their doors. Immigrants wanted to know what they could do about harassment and discrimination. They wanted to understand the rapid changes in laws and regulations and how these affected immigrants.

Traditionally the Guild has provided legal observers at demonstrations and lawyers for those arrested, and has participated in projects and coalitions seeking to promote the rights of women, workers, immigrants, gays and lesbians, tenants, racial minorities, and others. The events of September 11 prompted us to respond in particular to the needs of the immigrant community.

Responding to Immigrants' Fears

Changes in immigration law and policies (see box on page four), changes in federal and local law enforcement policies, and increased discrimination against particular immigrant groups have led to widespread fear within those communities. Specifically, many immigrant community groups (particularly of the Muslim, Arabic and South Asian communities) have reported increases in employment discrimination (including job termination) and hate crimes, and an upswing in law enforcement (FBI, INS and police) surveillance and investigations in their communities and religious centers.

Many of NLG's members are immigration and criminal lawyers, so we already had the requisite expertise. Working with other chapters of the Guild and our National Immigration Project, we updated our “Know Your Rights” materials and added information specific to immigrants. We translated them into Arabic, Farsi, Spanish, and other languages and handed them



NLG members participate in an April 2002 rally and press conference at the Federal Courthouse in Boston in support of detained Logan Airport employees. Photo courtesy of the NLG

out by the thousands.

The “Know Your Rights” brochure answers questions such as: What rights do I have, whether I am a citizen or not? (Answers: the rights to remain silent, be free from unreasonable search and seizure, and advocate for change, among others.) The brochure further describes what to do if contacted by the FBI, INS or police, and it offers advice on requesting that a lawyer be present during any questioning.

As fear was especially high at mosques and Islamic centers, we helped write a script for a newly created hot-line at the Cambridge Islamic Center and trained volunteer staffers to answer the phone.

As part of the 9-11 Project, Guild members have been speaking at mosques, community centers, churches, and schools. Besides requests for information, we also receive requests for individual representation. Working in coalition with other groups including the International Institute of Boston, the Civil Liberties Union of Massachusetts, and the Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights, we set up a network so that all those who needed a lawyer could get one.

Airport Sweeps

In spite of the huge effort to locate the perpetrators of the September 11 crimes, including rounding up and incarcerating hundreds, if not thousands, of innocent immigrants, only one person was actually detained and charged with offenses related

to September 11.

Perhaps in response to this inability to provide any real security to the American public, top law enforcement officials ordered sweeps of airport personnel in a effort to locate those against whom they could bring charges. Across the country, immigrant airport workers were arrested and

charged with federal felonies. Early in the early morning on February 27, 2002 police arrested 20 [Boston] Logan airport workers and charged them with using false documentation to obtain employment. One person was later released.

What's outrageous about this is that hundreds of thousands of immigrants across the country use false social security numbers and documentation to gain employment. When they are caught, which is fairly rare, these employees are almost always processed through the immigration system, where their papers are either straightened out or they are deported. Federal criminal charges are rarely, if ever, brought. All the more outrageous was that seven of those charged no longer worked at Logan Airport at the time of their arrests. Clearly the issue was not actual airport security, but rather creating the appearance of improved airport security.

Guild members quickly made contact with SEIU Local 254 organizers and together formed a coalition that included the Labor Council for Latin American Advancement, Jobs with Justice, AFSC, the Haitian American Public Health Initiative, the Center to Support Immigrant Organizing, the Irish Immigrant Center, the Arab-American Anti-Discrimination Committee, the Massachusetts Immigrant and Refugee Advocacy Coalition, and ANSWER (Act Now to Stop War and End Racism). Coalition members,

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as well as the families and friends of the charged immigrants, held press conferences, community meetings, and rallies, and gathered hundreds of signatures on petitions, seeking to have the US Attorney drop the charges.

As of today, the federal felony charges against one person have been reduced to a misdemeanor. Seven workers have pleaded guilty and have been or will be deported with no chance of returning to the US. Despite these circumstances, one accomplishment of the campaign has been the strengthening of the links among labor, community, immigrant rights, and advocacy groups. A similar coalition operated on a larger scale and with much success in the recent Justice for Janitors Campaign, in which broad community support helped the janitors win a new, fairer contract.

Civil Rights Eroding

As we get further away from September 11, the attacks on immigrants are increasing rather than decreasing. Amer Jubran, a Boston-area activist for Palestinian rights and legal US resident, was detained by the INS two days after he helped organize a rally in support of Palestinian rights. It took his Guild lawyer three weeks to get a bail hearing and to get him out of custody for what appear to be trumped-up charges.

Jubran's ordeal reflects the experience of many nationwide as federal authorities use existing laws and regulations (such as the little-known requirement that all immigrants, whatever their status, notify INS within 30 days of a change of address) to detain activists and to target young Muslim and Arab men. Even more scary are the provisions of the USA PATRIOT Act, which authorities are using to hold trials with little semblance of due process. Not only must immigrants' and workers' rights groups band together, but all progressive organizations need to work together and expand our numbers to beat back this new McCarthyism.

Judy Somberg is a board member of the Massachusetts Chapter of the National Lawyers Guild and a long-time RESIST supporter. Mass NLG received a grant from RESIST for their 9-11 Project. For more information, contact: NLG 9-11 Project, 14 Beacon St. #407, Boston, MA 02108; www.nlgmass.org.

**As we get further away from September 11,
the attacks on immigrants are increasing
rather than decreasing.**

In the Air & on the Ground

Organizing against 9/11 INS Abuses

HEBA NIMR

INS is publicly prioritizing the arrest of Iso-called "criminal aliens" and "terrorists." Narrowly defined, these are non-citizens with criminal convictions that make them deportable or people allegedly engaged in terrorist activity. However, INS is using this priority to target and arrest large numbers of people who are undocumented or have minor immigration problems.

The INS, with the FBI and other law enforcement agencies, has been questioning and detaining unknown numbers of Arabs and Central and South Asians living in the US. [Until recently,] no one detained by the INS since September 11 has been charged with actual involvement in terrorist activity. Yet, when announcing the creation of the Homeland Security Defense Department, which under his proposal includes the INS, President Bush declared that the homeland defense coalition already in existence "has hauled in about 2,400 of these terrorists, these killers." The government has yet to account for how many have been detained, deported, and/or under what charges.

INS is also escalating worksite enforcement in "national security" industries. Service workers affiliated—sometimes remotely—with airports were initially targeted under Operation Tarmac. Adapting this model, INS is to proceed with "Operation Glowworm," targeting workers affiliated with nuclear power facilities, and will almost certainly target other industries that could be identified as security-related, such as other transportation systems, public utilities and perhaps the food and health care industries.

In the name of "protecting" workers from exploitive employers and preventing trafficking by terrorist organizations, INS

has also targeted "alien smuggling pipelines." Such operations have involved the arrests of hundreds of Mexican and Central Americans traveling by bus and air.

Organizing against INS Abuses

In New York and New Jersey, where many of the initial post 9/11 detainees were held, DRUM (Desis Rising Up and Moving) have continued their ongoing efforts to expose INS enforcement and detention abuses and support the families and communities being targeted by INS. In the various cities where Operation Tarmac raids have happened, defense and support committees have formed to assist the workers caught up in the sweeps and draw public attention to the harmful effects of the INS raids. Some of these groups are working together to try and develop "toolkits" that can be used to educate workers in areas and industries that have not yet been hit by the raids. Campaigns have also arisen in support of particular pro-Palestine activists detained by INS in the last few months. Various local and national bodies have been speaking out about the dangers of local police involvement in immigration enforcement. And, various cities—Ann Arbor, MI, Cambridge, MA, and San Francisco, CA,—have passed resolutions condemning INS abuses and call for upholding due process for non-citizens.

Heba Nimr is the Soros Justice Fellow at INS Watch, a project of La Raza Centro Legal, in San Francisco, California. This article is reprinted with permission from the Fall 2002 issue of Network News, a publication of the National Network for Immigrant and Refugee Rights. For more information, contact www.nnirr.org.

Dreaming Ahead

Immigrant Rights in the Post-Durban, Post-9/11 Era

ARNOLDO GARCÍA

Immigrant rights had an unprecedented year of advances and setbacks in 2001. First, migrant rights received unprecedented international recognition at the World Conference against Racism (WCAR), concluding September 8, in Durban, South Africa. Three days later, they suffered a terrible blow as the 9/11 terrorist attacks unleashed a violent backlash against immigrants. Now, “immigrant” and “immigration” are synonymous with “terrorist” and “terrorism.” The hope of Durban waned as the United States enacted xenophobic and racist anti-terrorist laws and restrictive immigration policies at the center of its “war against terrorism.”

Before 9/11, immigrant communities, especially immigrants of color and the undocumented, lived, dreamed, and worked precariously under a “constitutional crisis.” Violations of their First, Fourth, and Fifth Amendment rights were rampant. Thousands were jailed indefinitely or deported without due process. Immigrants of color routinely experienced racial, nationality, class, religious, and other discriminatory treatment from landlords, employers, citizen groups, public and private agencies, and police.

The political reaction and economic recession triggered by 9/11 disproportionately hurt immigrants and people of color. Collaboration between federal, INS, and local police on immigration law enforcement began to be institutionalized. Official racial, ethnic, and religious profiling spiraled out of control.

Worldwide some 150 million migrants systematically endure racist and xenophobic abuse at the hands of governments and citizens in countries not their own. Migrants and refugees are compelled to cross international borders fleeing political persecution, terrorism, ethnic and racial strife, and unsustainable economic development. The root causes of involuntary migration lie in globalization—socio-economic and political restructuring that maximizes corporate investments and profits at the expense of communities. Now that the U.S. “war against terrorism” has gone global, 9/

11 also promises to swell the ranks of migrants and refugees.

Until WCAR

Over the last two decades, the deepening domination of North countries over South countries has increasingly blurred the differences between refugees and migrants. Forced displacement, whether by tanks or banks, results in communities being forced to abandon their homes; only some end up crossing international borders to survive. While no small matter, refugees have universally recognized rights and protections. However, migrants—who often flee the same economic or political conditions that create refugees—do not have universally recognized rights or protections—until WCAR.

Through WCAR, migrant and refugee rights groups accomplished at least three key goals.

- First, migrant and refugee rights groups, working together for the first time in a strategic global alliance, laid new groundwork linking issues and conditions addressing the nature of racism against migrants and refugees.

Representing organizations from the Americas, Europe, Asia, the Pacific Islands, and Africa, the Migrant and Refugee Caucus collectively developed comprehensive analyses and shared their diverse experiences, lobbying governments on specific recommendations. However reluctantly, governments reaffirmed existing refugee protections in the WCAR’s documents as part of eradicating racism, and acknowledged that xenophobia against refugees and migrants is a major source of contemporary racism.

- Second, a shared migrant and refugee rights agenda began taking shape. WCAR provided the space to deepen shared human rights and racial justice analyses, consolidating the role of migrant and refugee rights organizations in the nascent world movement against racism.

- And, third, migrant and refugee rights groups began establishing new relationships and alliances nationally and internationally with racial justice and human rights organizations.



Graphic courtesy of NNIRR

This was decisive in linking race, migration, xenophobia, and globalization as key to understanding the nature of the fight against anti-immigrant racism and the potential components of a global migrant rights agenda.

Dreaming Ahead

The US government is simultaneously eroding civil and constitutional rights and restructuring immigration enforcement and services as part of its “war against terrorism.” The newly established Homeland Security Department will fight terrorism and control immigration. Instead of amnesty for the undocumented or addressing the inequities driving migration, deportation and draconian immigration measures are proposed.

Demanding just, sustainable development that would not disrupt communities and displace peoples, requires a new relationship between South and North countries and where labor and capital mobility have equal rights. Such a relationship could create options so that people could decide where they live, work, worship, study or play without coercion. This is the radical dream shared by different peoples of color, cultures, nationalities, religions, and continents who want to thrive in a community of communities. This was the rising dream coming back from Durban. This was the challenge before September 11, 2001; now it is a more urgent dream than ever.

Arnoldo García is the editor of Network News and NNIRR's World Conference Project Director. This article is excerpted from a report soon to be published by the National Network. NNIRR is a multi-year RESIST grantee. For more information, contact NNIRR, 310 8th St #303, Oakland, CA 94607-4253; www.nnirr.org.

GRANTS

Resist awards grants six times a year to groups throughout the United States engaged in activism for social and economic justice. In this issue of the Newsletter we list a few grant recipients from our December 2002 allocation cycle. For information, contact the groups at the addresses below.

Institute for MultiRacial Justice

522 Valencia St
San Francisco, CA 94110

The Institute for MultiRacial Justice was founded in 1997 to serve as a resource center to help transform society by working to build alliances among people of color. Concerned about the relatively low level of participation in anti-war action by most communities of color, especially the African-American and Latino communities, the Institute plans to hold a statewide strategy-planning meeting with participants from those two communities.

RESIST awarded the Institute for MultiRacial Justice a grant of \$3,000 from the Freda Friedman Salzman Memorial Fund for the proposed conference and to increase African-American and Latino participation in current anti-war efforts.

The Freda Friedman Salzman Memorial Fund "is dedicated to the purpose of supporting organized resistance to the institutions and practices that rob people of their dignity as full human beings... (giving) a high priority to the efforts of Native American people to resist cultural as well as actual genocide."

Arise for Social Justice

94 Rifle St
Springfield, MA 01105

In 1985, four women on welfare began meeting around kitchen tables to discuss the injustices in the welfare system and what they could do about it. With determination and a lot of organizing energy, they created Arise—a grassroots social justice coalition of low-income people. Over the past 17 years, Arise has led many successful campaigns concerning issues that affect the local low-income community, including rent control, police reform, increasing costs of living for welfare recipients, HIV/AIDS education, and the decriminalization of prostitution.

RESIST awarded Arise a grant of \$3,000 for general support.

ile: Institute for Latino Empowerment

PMB #117
200 Ave Rafael Cordero Suite 140
Caguas, PR 00725-3757

ile was founded in 1992 as a program of Casa Latina, Inc., located in Northampton, MA. In 1997, ile moved to Puerto Rico. While continuing its work in the US, ile has been engaged in anti-oppression community organizing efforts against militarism, racism, sexism, heterosexism, classism and colonialism in Puerto Rico. ile works closely with a diverse set of individuals, groups, and organizations in these struggles in a wide range of capacities: leading workshops; facilitating meetings and retreats; providing technical assistance and organizational development consultation; networking and fund raising; building alliances between groups; coaching and counseling community leaders; and planning and participating in civil disobedience actions.

RESIST awarded ile a grant of \$3,000 for general support.

Providence Youth-Student Movement (PrYSM)

22 Miller Ave
Providence, RI 02905

PrYSM formed during the fall of 2000 as a multi-racial youth group determined to call for a strong and comprehensive youth movement in Providence. PrYSM places Southeast Asian youth at the center of their work for political change. PrYSM works to win racial, economic, and social justice through the arts, community advocacy, youth empowerment, and direct action. PrYSM has conducted a series of political education trainings for youth focusing on institutional racism, solidarity among communities of color and wars in Southeast Asia. PrYSM's most recent campaign, *Stop Deportation*, involves fighting the deportation of Cambodian immigrants in the post-September 11 xenophobic climate.

RESIST awarded PrYSM a grant of \$3,000 for the *Stop Deportation* campaign.

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We'd like you to consider becoming a Resist Pledge. Pledges account for over 30% of our income.

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